

IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete claims 1 through 18.

Please add the following claims:

--19. A method for selecting a gateway proximal to a network access point that satisfies a predefined call service on a hybrid network, wherein the hybrid network includes a circuit switched network, a packet switched network and a directory service to route a call, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a query including a type of call service to the directory service to obtain a plurality of gateways between the packet switched network and circuit switched network that match the predefined call service criteria;

querying each of the plurality of gateways to determine a network topology to service the call;

ranking the plurality of gateways based on the network topology and the call service criteria;

translating an identifier of a destination of the call from a listing of telephone numbers and associated internet protocol addresses in the directory service; and

routing the call over the selected gateway.

20. The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the topology of the hybrid network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol ping.

21. The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the topology of the hybrid network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol trace route.

22. The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the topology of the hybrid network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol packet latency.

23. The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the topology of the hybrid network is analyzed utilizing a packet echo.

24. The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the topology of the hybrid network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol ping.

25. A hybrid network, which comprises:
a circuit switched communication network;
a packet transmission network coupled to the circuit switched communications network;
a plurality of gateways connecting the circuit switched communication network and the packet network; and

Cont.
a call router coupled to the circuit switched communications network with logic that transmits a query including a type of call service to the directory service to obtain one or more of the plurality of gateways that match the predefined call service criteria; querying each of the plurality of gateways to determine a network topology to service the call; ranking the plurality of gateways based on the network topology and the call service criteria; accessing the directory service to match an identifier of a destination of the call to an associated internet protocol address; and routing the call to the selected gateway.

26. The hybrid network as recited in claim 25, wherein the topology of the hybrid network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol ping.

27. The hybrid network as recited in claim 25, wherein the topology of the hybrid network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol trace route.

28. The hybrid network as recited in claim 25, wherein the topology of the hybrid network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol packet latency.

29. The hybrid network as recited in claim 25, wherein the topology of the hybrid network is analyzed utilizing a packet echo.

30. The hybrid network as recited in claim 25, wherein the topology of the hybrid network is analyzed utilizing an internet protocol ping.--